

App. No. 10/089,409
Office Action Dated March 15, 2006

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-12, 18, 21, and 24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 27-42 are new.

New claims 27 and 30 are supported by the subject matter of claim 1. New claims 28 and 31 are supported by the subject matter of claim 2. New claims 29, 32, 35, and 38 are supported by the subject matter of claim 11. New claims 33 and 36 are supported by the subject matter of claim 3. New claims 34 and 37 are supported by the subject matter of claim 4. New claim 39 is supported by the subject matter of claim 5. New claim 40 is supported by the subject matter of claim 6. New claim 41 is supported by the subject matter of claim 9. New claim 42 is supported by the subject matter of claim 10.

The IDS filed June 10, 2005 is objected to for failing to include a copy of EP 0 863 503. According to the Applicants' records it was submitted, however an additional copy and another PTO-1449 are provided herewith.

Claims 5, 6, 9, and 10 were objected to for improper form. Claims 5, 6, 9, and 10 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 1, 3, 12, 18, 21, and 24 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nagataki (US 5,527,479). Claims 1, 3, 12, 18, 21, and 24 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants note that new claims 27 and 30 include the subject matter of claim 1, and new claims 33 and 36 include the subject matter of claim 3. However, claims 37, 30, 33, and 36 depend from allowed claims 13, 14, 19, and 20, respectively.

Claims 2, 4, 8, and 11 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nagataki in view of Kamezaki (US 5,904,969). Claims 2, 4, 8, and 11 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants note that new claims 28 and 31 include the subject matter of claim 2, new claims 34 and 37 include the subject matter of claim 4, and new claims 29, 32, 35, and 38 include the

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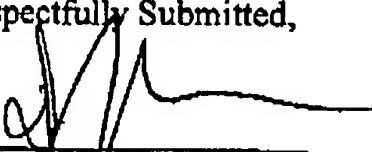
subject matter of claim 11. However, claims 28, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, and 38 depend from allowed claims 13, 14, 19, and 20.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: June 6, 2006





Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No.: 30,300
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.
225 South Sixth Street
Suite 2650
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612.455.3800

DPM:mfe